



Q-FEVER

Agent Overview:	The causative agent of Q-fever is a rickettsia named <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> .
Lab Specimen Submittal:	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, DPHL director, Christina Pleasanton, DPHL deputy director, or Dr. Jack Liou, bioterrorism coordinator.
Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:	Serological testing: Serum (red/black top tube) <u>Clinical specimens for PCR:</u> Specimens for testing include blood (drawn in EDTA tube), tissue and blood clots.
Packaging Instructions:	Place samples in a biohazard bag or unbreakable double container. Outside of container should be decontaminated (10% bleach).
Receiving Specimens at DPHL:	Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must present ID and have proper forms completed.
Handling of Specimens:	Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens and materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. Environmental samples are kept at room temperature and clinical specimens at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.
Reporting Results:	<u>Preliminary:</u> A preliminary report may be issued as early as 48 hours after initial set up. A second serum needs to be collected 2-3 weeks after onset.
Contact Information:	Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL director, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).